

**CONFIDENTIAL**

THE COUNCIL FOR TOBACCO RESEARCH - U. S. A.

February 16, 1966

MEMORANDUM

TO: The committee comprising Dr. Jacobson, Chm., Dr. Bing and Dr. Lynch.  
FROM: Robert C. Hockett  
SUBJECT: New grant application from Oswald R. Jones, M.D. - No. 523.

We enclose herewith a new grant application from Dr. Oswald R. Jones of St. Luke's Hospital, New York City.

This proposal was received following a number of conversations with Dr. Jones. Without the full background of these discussions, the application as it stands appears rather meager and, considered *de novo*, may not succeed in conveying an adequate picture of Dr. Jones' long clinical experience and related animal experimentation.

The theme and thesis of the proposal seem quite relevant to the basic approach of the Council to problems of chronic lung diseases such as emphysema. The Council has stressed the problem of predisposing factors such as (1) heredity and (2) the cumulative or repetitive effects of infections, that might ultimately explain why some smokers develop such diseases while others do not. Dr. Jones' special interest is in the predisposing effects of virus infections. He feels that long-range prospective studies, beginning with children, will provide the only means of solving these questions. Sooner or later such studies must be undertaken by somebody, he says, and continued for an extended period. Though this proposal speaks of four years, it is hardly to be expected that this will be time enough and another four will undoubtedly be needed, and perhaps yet another four. At the same time, some more immediate returns can be expected if even very young survivors of relatively severe pulmonary virus infections show evidence of persistent or even permanent impairment of pulmonary function and/or if occasional opportunities for post-mortem examination advance our knowledge of pathological changes in the lung attributable to particular infectious agents.

Jones asserts that practically no investigation of this type has ever been done before and I have found no basis for disputing him.

An undertaking of this kind would be an ambitious one for the Council because of its nature. It would nevertheless provide a pioneering and leadership opportunity. Certainly it should be considered without any illusions.

Aside from consideration of the plan and concept, the Board will have to evaluate the capabilities of the investigators and the suitability of the institution for an investigation of such magnitude and character. It may not be possible to do this adequately in one sitting. Dr. Jones has offered to appear before the whole Board for further discussion or to meet with any committee thereof which may be designated. I feel personally that this would be a wise step.

Since Dr. Jones is no longer a young man, it seems important that he should have collaborators both interested in and capable of carrying the study through if his leadership should be lost.

R. C. H.

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